

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /168 W

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O R 211148Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6712

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AHEONSUL UDORN 538

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN

SECDEF

DIA

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

CDR USSAG NKP

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CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDAO SAIGON
COMUSMACTHAI
DODSPECREP BANGKOK
DODSPECREP NKP
354 TFW KORAT
CHSPECACTS BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
7 ACCS KORAT
432 TFW UDORN
8 TFW KORAT
56 SOW NKP
388 TFW KORAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 7928

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON 432 TFW, 56 SOW,
388 TFW, 354 TSW AND 8 TFW FOR DO/DI; MACTHAI FOR J-2 AND PAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PFOR, PINS, PINT, ECON, LA
SUBJECT: LAO WEEKLY SITREP - NOVEMBER 21

REF: VIENTIANE 7783

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE LPF HAS NOW NEARLY FILLED ITS
QUOTA FOR MILITARY/POLICE PERSONNEL IN VIENTIANE AND
LUANG PRABANG, AS CALLED FOR IN THE VIENTIANE ACCORD/
PROTOCOL. MOREOVER, THE LPF APPEARS INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS
TO HAVE THE JCIA MEET AND THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT
FORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AS DOES PRIME MINISTER
SOUVANNA PHOUMA, THERE WERE ONLY FIVE MINOR MILITARY
INCIDENTS DURING THE PERIOD 15-21 NOVEMBER, MAKING THIS
THE 13TH CONSECUTIVE WEEK WITH LESS THAN TEN INCIDENTS.
END SUMMARY

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

A. PERSONNEL AND CARGO CONTINUE TO ARRIVE:

DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 15-20, SOVIET AIRCRAFT
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FLIGHTS DELIVERED 166 LPF PERSONNEL TO VIENTIANE AND
CHINESE AIRCRAFT DELIVERED 423 PERSONNEL TO LUANG PRABANG.
UNOFFICIAL FIGURES FOR LPF PERSONNEL ARE NOW 1,379 FOR
VIENTIANE AND 949 FOR LUANG PRABANG, FOR A TOTAL OF 2,328.
THE LPF IS ENTITLED TO ABOUT 2,560 UNDER THE PROTOCOL.

THE SOVIETS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO FLY 200 ADDI-
TIONAL PERSONNEL AND 335 TONS OF CARGO TO VIENTIANE DURING

PERIOD NOVEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 5 (EXCLUDING SUNDAYS) AND THAT REQUEST WAS APPROVED BY THE RLG DELEGATION TO THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCIA). THE LPF ALSO HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO INTRODUCE 50 MEN AND 110 TONS OF CARGO INTO LUANG PRABANG AFTER NOVEMBER 21, BUT, TO DATE, RLG DELEGATION TO JCIA HAS REFUSED TO GRANT APPROVAL. (COMMENT: DEPSITE PRESSURE FROM ITS RIGHT WING, IT IS LIKELY THAT RLG WILL EVENTUALLY APPROVE THESE ADDITIONAL ARRIVALS IN LUANG PRABANG. SOUVANNA IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT RLG INTENDS TO ENFORCE LIMITS SET BY AGREEMENT/PROTOCOL ON ALLOWABLE LPF MILITARY FORCES, BUT THAT HE IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF LPF CIVILIANS WHO MIGHT COME TO EITHER CITY.)

B. ACTIVITIES OF LPF PERSONNEL IN VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG

A CONVOY OF COMMERCIAL BARGES WENT FROM VIENTIANE TO LUANG PRABANG RECENTLY WITHOUT ARMED ESCORT. NORMALLY, THEY WOULD HAVE STOPPED MIDWAY FOR AN ARMED ESCORT, BUT, AS A RESULT OF AN ACCORD SIGNED LAST WEEK BETWEEN HE LPF AND COMMERCIAL BARGE OPERATORS, BARGES ARE NOW PERMITTED TO GO THROUGH WITHOUT THE SPECIAL ESCORT. THIS MOVE ACCORDS WITH ARTICLE 13(D) OF THE PROTOCOL WHICH PRESCRIBES FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ALONG COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED SECTIONS OF THE MEKONG.

II. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

ON NOVEMBER 16 AND 19, SOTH PHETRASY, CHIEF OF LPF DELEGATION TO JCIA, MET WITH HEAD OF RLG DELEGATION, SOUKAN VILAYSANE. RADIO PATHET LAO (RPL) REPORTED THAT AT BOTH MEETINGS SOTH EMPHASIZED THE LPF DESIRE TO HAVE THE JCIA HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN VERY NEAR FUTURE (I.E., "THIS WEEK"). IN ADDITION, RPL, NOVEMBER 21, SAID THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, HEAD OF LPF DELEGATION, CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER NOVEMBER 20 AND (1) EXPRESSED LPF DESIRE TO SEE THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT AND ITS PROTOCOL "STRICTLY AND COMPLETELY IMPLEMENTED" AND (2) ASKED SOUVANNA TO "CONTRIBUTE" TO THE HOLDING OF THE JCIA'S FIRST MEETING AT AN EARLY DATE. (COMMENT: LOCAL CONCERN THAT THE RECENT LE DUAN VISIT TO SAM NEUA, REPORTED REFTTEL, WOULD SLOW PROGRESS IN RLG-LPF NEGOTIATIONS APPEARS UNWARRANTED IN LIGHT OF INCREASED LPF MEDIA, INSISTENCE THAT THE JCIA BE CONVENED AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.)

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C O N S M I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 7928

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON 432 TFW, 56 SOW, 338 TFW
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ON THE RLG SIDE, SOUKAN IS BELIEVED TO HAVE PROPOSED
FOLLOWING ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR JCIA SESSIONS:

- A. REACTIVATION OF ICC.
- B. REVIEW OF PAST AND FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS
TO FACILITATE LPF INFLUX
- C. STEPS TOWARD NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE,
SUCH AS CREATION OF JOINT POLICE
PATROLS, EQUALIZATION OF FORCES, ETC.
- D. FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

SOUKAN FORESEES TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS AHEAD: (1)
EXPENSE OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR JOINT POLICE FORCE,
PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALIONS AND OTHER NEW BODIES WHICH
WILL BE CREATED BY JCIA IN NEXT TWO MONTHS (RLG CANNOT
POSSIBLY COVER THESE COSTS ALONE); AND (2) COMMAND AND
CONTROL OF SECURITY FORCES. LPF CONSIDERS JCIA, JOINT
POLICE FORCE AND PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALIONS AS
"WHOLLY INDEPENDENT OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND SUBORDINATE
DIRECTLY TO CHIEFS OF BOTH SIDES" ACCORDING TO ARTICLE
23(A) OF PROTOCOL. SOUKAN THEREFORE BELIEVES LPF MAY
NOT COOPERATE UNLESS COMMAND AND CONTROL LINES RUN
DIRECTLY FROM JCIA TO JOINT POLICE FORCE AND PROTECTIVE
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MILITARY BATTALIONS, SKIRTING INFLUENCE OF THEIR PARENT
RLG ORGANIZATIONS.

III. SECURITY SITUATION

THERE WERE FIVE MINOR INCIDENTS IN THE PERIOD
ENDING NOVEMBER 21, MARKING THE 13TH CONSECUTIVE WEEK
WITH FEWER THAN TEN INCIDENTS. ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS,
RLAF OR US CONTRACTOR AIRCRAFT RECEIVED GROUND FIRE DURING
THE PAST WEEK; THREE OF THE REPORTED FIRINGS WERE IN MR II.

IV. ECONOMIC SITUATION

ECONOMIC SITUATION REMAINED QUIET AND STABLE IN
LAOS DURING THE WEEK, WITH NO MEASURABLE EFFECT OF THE
POL SHORTAGE FELT SO FAR. SALES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY
THE FEOF MECHANISM ROSE SLIGHTLY BUT AMPLE SUPPLIES OF
COMMODITIES ARE EVIDENT IN THE MARKET PLACE AND THE RISE
IS BELIEVED TO HAVE STEMMED FROM NORMAL SEASONAL FACTORS.
WHITEHOUSE

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